

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17 and 19-21 have been canceled. Claims 3, 16, 18 and 23 have been amended. Thus, claims 3, 16, 18, 22 and 23 are pending in the application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 16, 18, 22 and 23 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 16 and 18 were rewritten in accordance with this indication. Applicants note that the Examiner rejected claims 17, 18 and 20 on page 13 of the Office action dated 10/09/2007. However, the Examiner only applied the cited references against claims 17 and 20, and not against claim 18. Further, the Examiner indicated that claim 18, as noted above, would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For these reasons Applicants proceeded on the basis that the Examiner did not intend to reject claim 18, and retained the re-written claim in the application.

Claim 23 was amended to correct a an inadvertent typographic omission and a lack of antecedent basis. No new matter was added. Applicants respectfully submit that the changes to claim 23 do not affect the allowability of the claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above amendments and arguments, or any suggestions for further amending the claims to obtain allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney, John Fitzgerald, at 310-242-2667.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fees in this matter to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425

Dated: January 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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